



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501

Matt L. Rodriguez, Superintendent of Police



VOLUME 94

7 JULY 1994

NUMBER 3

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE

As all of you know, being a police officer today can be both tough and frustrating. Violence is sometimes random and senseless, and the demands it creates on us are significant. In this hectic environment, we seldom take the time to pause and reflect on the job we're doing. Now, in middle of what will certainly be one of our busiest summers ever, is a time for such reflection, however.

On numerous occasions in the past I have said that we are the finest police department in the United States. I have not made that claim lightly or without thoughtfulness. I have made it from the perspective of 35 years in this profession and this Department, and as someone who knows and has studied other police operations throughout the country.

As I reflect on the events of the last few weeks—the World Cup opening ceremonies, the five games played at Soldier Field, the record crowds for the Taste of Chicago and the City's fireworks celebration—I am more convinced than ever of my evaluation of our Department. Our efforts at planning, training and implementation have been so outstanding that all of you need to take a moment to appreciate what we have accomplished and to congratulate yourselves on a job well done.

In my 35 years, there have been many instances in which our Department has excelled at handling major events, natural disasters, and high-profile investigations. In recent weeks, you have had the opportunity to excel at a level no less than the Department's past fine efforts. As importantly, you have been able to excel with the world, literally, as your audience—with millions of people here in the City, both visitors and local residents, and with hundreds of millions more watching on television.

I have no doubt that our professionalism and the total quality of our work have done much to enhance Chicago's image throughout the world. And by improving our world image, we have also improved the sense of pride and value among the people who live and work here in the City. Those sentiments in our own community will benefit the Department long after the memories of World Cup Soccer have faded.

This PAX 501 cannot adequately express my personal gratitude and that of the entire command staff of the Department. All of us thank you and congratulate you for a truly outstanding effort on behalf of our Department and our City.

Matt L. Rodriguez
Superintendent of Police